

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. A Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and the applicable fee are being filed herewith.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-39 are pending in the application. Claims 1-39 are sought to be amended to better define the claimed invention without narrowing the claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider and allow amended claims 1-39.

Allowed claims 1-39

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance, dated June 3, 2003, in which the Examiner indicated that claims 1-39 are patentable over the references of record. As noted above, claims 1-39 have been amended to better define the claimed invention without narrowing the claims. Consideration and allowance of amended claims 1-39 are respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are filing currently herewith an information disclosure statement that lists documents cited in the parent of this application. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the documents listed in the information disclosure statement and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

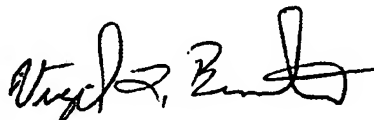
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and allow claims 1-39. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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